

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 651

By Odom

A RESOLUTION relative to renewable energy.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has significantly limited its support for distributed renewable energy generated by Tennessee citizens and small businesses and has greatly decreased or eliminated any monetary incentives for rooftop solar and other small renewable energy installations; and

WHEREAS, TVA's Green Power Providers program was so popular and successful that it reached its capacity limit for 2013 in April of 2013; and

WHEREAS, the "Start and Stop" history of TVA's solar programs has made it difficult for Tennessee's growing solar industry to plan for the future; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee citizens wanting to install small renewable energy systems at their homes or businesses are now faced with inordinate administrative burdens to have their systems connected to the grid; and

WHEREAS, TVA provides power to 155 municipal and electric membership distribution utilities; and

WHEREAS, in August 2007, TVA adopted a modified version of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act 2005 that states: "TVA shall make available, upon request, interconnection service, for generators with output of 20 MW or less, to any electric consumer that it serves"; and

WHEREAS, TVA allows the distribution utilities that operate in its territory the flexibility to create their own interconnection procedures that are similar to TVA's; and

WHEREAS, in the face of decreased support by TVA for distributed renewable energy, different distributors are relaying inconsistent grid interconnection requirements to Tennessee

citizens, and some distributors have advised citizens and solar installers that currently TVA requires certification as a “Qualified Facility” for interconnections under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and

WHEREAS, TVA keeps the Renewable Energy Credits from citizens’ rooftop solar or other small renewable energy installations; and

WHEREAS, TVA does not allow distributors in its region to purchase energy from citizens’ small renewable energy installations, nor does it allow citizens to sell their energy to Tennessee distributors for sale to other TVA ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, TVA’s Green Power Switch program asks end-use users to pay extra for renewable energy, but does not link a particular renewable energy project by a Tennessee citizen or small business with a project by another citizen or small business; thus TVA requires that ratepayers separately finance renewable energy, but builds the cost of all other capital investments for generation into the bills of all ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee’s solar industry ranked 14th in the nation in solar job growth last year, and ninth in green job production, largely as a result of TVA’s limited solar programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the General Assembly supports the right of Tennessee citizens to install renewable energy projects at their homes or businesses and urges TVA and Tennessee distributors to facilitate grid connections (interconnections) for small renewable energy projects with simple, uniform, fair, and free or low-cost year-round procedures throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges TVA and Tennessee distributors to provide year round and robust support for development of distributed renewable energy systems installed by Tennessee citizens and businesses, with fair compensation for generation and encouragement of solar photovoltaic generation to provide opportunity for Tennessee residents and businesses to participate in renewable energy generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges TVA and Tennessee distributors to facilitate third party arrangements for solar photovoltaic generation so that all Tennessee citizens can have the opportunity to have low cost fuel-free electricity and energy independence through renewable solar energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to each TVA board member and to the Chief Executive Officer of TVA.